

The Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance also offers the following tips for waste reduction during the holidays:

- Use reusable plates, cups and silverware instead of disposable ones.
- Recycle used ribbons, bows, gift bags and decorative wrappings.
- Composting food waste creates natural fertilizer for next year's garden.
- Don't pour oil and grease down the drain. Place excess amounts of oil and grease from holiday cooking and cleaning in collection containers and throw it away in your household garbage.
- If your holiday gifts include new electronic gadgets and you need to discard your older electronics, recycle them instead of throwing them away. Talk to your local solid waste officials or visit <http://www.p2pays.org/localgov/PAYT/ncwaste.asp> to see if your community has an electronics recycling program in place.

"North Carolinians can enjoy the merriment of the season without doing harm to the environment," Easley said. "If each of us makes an effort, we can help reduce waste while enjoying holiday traditions."

To learn more about recycling and ways to reduce waste during the holiday season, visit the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environment Assistance Web site at <http://www.p2pays.org/> and click on the festive "Battery Guy."

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